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U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D. C. 20535

March 28, 1997

[Redacted]
Privacy Officer
Social Security Administration
6401 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland 21235

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Dear [Redacted]:

On March 26, 1997, thirty-nine bodies were located on an estate in Rancho Santa Fe, California. As news articles have disclosed, all individuals participated in a mass suicide relating to a cult known as "Heaven's Gate." Subsequent to discovery of these thirty-nine bodies by the San Diego Sheriff's Office, the San Diego County Medical Examiner's Office has attempted to identify the next of kin, and has been unsuccessful in doing so with fifteen decedents.

Each of the thirty-nine decedents had identification on their body to include such items as: individual's Social Security Account Number, driver's license, passport and date of birth. The identification of the next of kin of the above-noted fifteen individuals is essential to allow for appropriate notification.

It is requested that the Social Security Administration locate the Social Security Form SS5 pertaining to each of the fifteen listed individuals to assist in the identification of the next of kin. A listing of the decedents' names and corresponding identifications have been forwarded to the Social Security Administration by separate cover. Your assistance and cooperation in this matter is most appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

John F. Lewis, Jr.
Assistant Director in Charge
National Security Division

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Dep. Dir. _____
Chief of _____
Staff _____
Off. of Gen. _____
Counsel _____
Asst. Dir.: _____
Crim. Inv. _____
CJIS _____
Finance _____
Info. Res. _____
Insp. _____
Lab. _____
National Sec. _____
Personnel _____
Training _____
Off. of EEOA _____
Off. of Public _____
& Cong. Affs. _____
Director's Office _____

1 - SAC, San Diego (PERSONAL ATTENTION)

KRP:taw (5)

MAIL ROOM

ATTACHED:

Encls. _____
Deputy Director _____

Crim. Inv. _____

Crim. Jus. Info. _____

Ident. _____

Intell. _____

Gen. Counsel _____

Info. Res. _____

Inspection _____

Intell. _____

Intell. _____

Intell. _____

Training _____

Off. of Cong. & Public Affs. _____

Off. of Public & Cong. Affairs _____

Off. of Public & Cong. Affairs _____

Off. of Public & Cong. Affairs _____

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